

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
ON COOPERATION IN TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

The Department of Commerce of the United States of America and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Recalling the existing experience of collaboration in the fields of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the importance of technological innovation to economic growth,

Recognizing the desire of the United States of America and the Russian Federation to expand and strengthen economic cooperation,

Noting the continued desire to engage in constructive dialogue and promote cooperation between the Parties in civilian technology and innovation policy.

Acknowledging the mutual benefits gained through the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Science and Technology Cooperation of December 16, 1993 (hereinafter referred as Agreement).

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties agree to undertake cooperation in the fields of civilian technology, innovation and technology policy, and standards on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and reciprocity.

Article 2

The Parties agree to undertake cooperation in the following forms:

1. Facilitation of linkages among representatives from academia, governmental and non-governmental organizations to stimulate the exchanges of information and best practices in the field of civilian technologies and innovations;
2. Promotion of technology-related partnerships between U.S. and Russian organizations and enterprises;
3. Exchanges of information and researchers to promote development of measurements and standards;

4. Study and facilitation for the harmonization of science and technology policies, laws and regulations, and methods that are of importance for scientific research and innovations in a global economy, intellectual property protection, foreign investment, technology licensing and the development of a favorable business climate for innovation;
5. Facilitation of training of specialists that promotes understanding of technology management and business practices;
6. Exchanges of information and best practices in developing venture capital as a source of investment for technology start-ups;
7. Such other forms of cooperation as are mutually agreed.

Article 3

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the availability of funds.

For purpose of providing the effective realization of this Memorandum, the Parties create the U.S.-Russian Innovation Council on High Technologies, which consists of representatives of the state entities, business and scientific circles. The Parties shall develop and approve the procedure for the activities of the Council .

Article 4

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding may include the participation of experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia.

The Parties will on a regular basis consult with the private sector on opportunities for collaboration in the innovation-technology sphere, and obstacles in the way of its development.

Article 5

Arrangements of the Parties on specific activities as mutually agreed shall be appended to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 6

The Parties agree that any confidential information of a commercial nature, exchanged under this Memorandum of Understanding or its Annexes shall be protected and used in accordance with the Annex II of the Agreement.

Article 7

Scientific and technical information derived from the cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding may be made available to the world

scientific community, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing. Matters related to intellectual property created or furnished under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be regulated in accordance with Annex II of the Agreement.

Article 8

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a ten-year period. The Memorandum may be amended or extended by written agreement of the Parties.

Either Party may terminate this Memorandum at any time, upon six months advance notification in writing by the Party seeking to terminate the Memorandum. The termination of the Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of the specific activities undertaken hereunder, and not yet completed at the time of termination.

DONE at Washington, on April 19, 2004, in two copies each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA